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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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REPORT NO.

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COUNTRY Poland

DATE DISTR. 21 Feb. 1955

SUBJECT Military Induction, Terms and Lengths of Service, and Reserve Training

NO. OF PAGES 5

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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Mobilization of Source's Class

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1. initially registered for military service in 1949 at Zabrze (Hindenburg) (N 50-19, E 18-47). During upon receipt of notification by mail, he reported to what he believed was a civilian medical examining commission at Zabrze, where he and approximately 120 other inductees of the same year class were physically examined during one day. This medical examining board conducted physical examinations of inductees from the vicinity of Zabrze for about one week but source had no knowledge concerning the number of inductees examined during the entire week.
2. Source stated that his physical examination was rather cursory and amounted to an eye test (Ishihara), a hearing test, and a check of his weight, reflexes, chest, and teeth. Blood count, blood test, urinalysis, and chest X-ray were not accomplished. He was, however, questioned concerning any past illnesses that he or the members of his family might have had.
3. Source recalled that of the 120 men examined with him only five were accepted for induction. About five others were disqualified because of poor health and the remainder was believed to have been deferred from eight months to one year for unknown reasons. He did not know what physical standards were required. From conversations with people, source later learned that practically all those who had been deferred were inducted earlier than he.

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- 50X1 4. In compliance with mailed instructions, source and about 300 other inductees reported to the military regional commission at Gliwice (Gleiwitz) [redacted] for induction into the Polish Army. Source recalled that an army officer, reading from a roster, called out his name and those of about 60 other inductees. They were then assembled into one group, with an unidentified lieutenant and two NCOs in charge, and taken by train to the 39th Mecz Inf Regt at Trzebiatow nad Rega (N 54-04, E 15-16) the same day.
- 50X1 5. [redacted] they entrained at Trzebiatow nad Rega and arrived at the 9th Ind Med Tk Regt at Slupsk (N 54-27, E 17-02), where they were all subsequently assigned to an armored NCO school battalion for recruit and NCO training. Source noted that the 60 inductees comprising his group had completed at least seven years of schooling and had been machinists, drivers, mechanics, and electricians, and that perhaps their selection for assignment to the armored branch of service was based upon civilian experience, education, and occupation.
6. Source had no knowledge on inductees' being assigned to labor or para-military organizations or on the system of selecting personnel for service in Border Guard (Wojaska Ochrony Pogranicza - WOP) and Internal Security Corps (Korpus Bezpieczenstwa Wewnetrznego - KBW) units.

General Information on Year Classes

7. Source believed that members of the year classes of 1933, 1934, and 1935 were on active duty, as conscripts, in 1954. He could not furnish any further details concerning the mobilization of the youngest year class or other classes.
- 50X1 8. Source believed that the majority of the year class of 1932 was to be demobilized during the fall of 1954. However, he understood that some branches of the service would not release the members of the year class of 1932 [redacted]. He was almost certain that this would be true in the case of his own former branch, armor, since members of the armored branch of service were usually not demobilized until December or January, by which time the complete winterizing maintenance of all vehicles and tanks was accomplished. They were further retained until the newly inducted members of the youngest year class had completed their recruit training, taken their oath of office [redacted], and were sufficiently oriented in their duties with tanks to replace the men scheduled for demobilization. 50X1
9. A very small number of conscripted "key men", such as, radio operators, clerks, mechanics, and NCOs, were occasionally retained against their personal desires. Source, however, added that such men usually proved to be troublesome and were often released from active duty within a few months.
- 50X1 10. Source did not believe that the over-all strength of the Polish armed forces was being increased by present induction policies. Source stated that the strength of the Polish armed forces was somewhat reduced about December and January of each year when mobilization and demobilization was taking place. From personal observations within his own unit, the 41st Armd Arty Regt, source stated that all vehicles and tanks were completely immobilized [redacted] by reason of undergoing winter maintenance, but that the strength of the unit remained approximately the same. Source did not know of any event which would indicate that the normal induction process was not being carried out. 50X1

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Length of ServiceConscripted EM

11. The required tours of duty for active duty conscripted NCOs and inductees in the Polish Army were not known to source, but he believed that they served on active duty approximately two years or longer depending upon their state of training and branch of service. Source's purely personal opinion was that in certain units, if considered well-trained by the appropriate military district and/or Ministry of National Defense, and if a sufficient number of replacements from the new year class was available to them, the oldest year class of these units was released in about eighteen months to two years, which was sooner than was expected. If these units were not considered to be well-trained, and the newly inducted year class was not sufficiently trained to replace them, the oldest members of the units were retained from about two years to 28 months, or longer, if necessary.
12. Source said that the Ministry of National Defense and the appropriate military district controlled the induction and demobilization of the year classes and their policies seemed to vary each year.
13. He had no knowledge concerning the required tour of duty for EM in the Border Guard (WOP) and Internal Security Corps (KBW) except that he understood that such individuals were required to serve for a longer period than EM in the Polish Army.

Career NCOs¹

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14. Source frequently heard statements made by officers that the normal term of service for career NCOs was six years. When an active duty NCO completed the normal term of service for which he was inducted, which was about two years, he could then sign a declaration to serve as a career NCO for a period of three years.
15. Each military unit usually retained its best active duty NCOs beyond the term of service for which they were inducted in hopes of retaining them as career NCOs. The majority of these active duty NCOs, however, were usually released within a few months as a result of their committing various types of infractions or their personal desire for release from the service.
16. Career NCOs were offered many advantages in order to retain their services. Their monthly pay ranged from about 600 to 1000 zlotys and was based upon rank and duty assignment. An active duty conscripted NCO with a similar duty assignment usually received about 120 to 300 zlotys per month. Source also believed that career NCOs received additional monetary allowances if married and residing with their dependents. Amounts were not known to him.
17. Career NCOs enjoyed the privilege of dining with officers at the officers' casino but paid for their meals. In addition, they could attend all officer social affairs at the casino.
18. Career NCOs resided with their dependents in quarters assigned to them by their military unit, and for which they paid a very nominal rental fee every three months. Rental fees were based on the size of the quarters and rank of the individual. After duty hours, they were free to leave the caserne area at any time.

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19. They received one month's leave every year. Such leave could be taken at any time except during winterizing maintenance of vehicles and tanks. An active duty conscript NCO was granted several days leave only as a reward for outstanding services.
20. Career NCOs also had commissary privileges. Military commissaries were located either at or near the caserne where dependents could purchase meats, dairy products, vegetables, and all other food staples for a price considered to be about 50% less than the prices in civilian stores. Potatoes and coal were purchased for about 75% less than the prices paid by civilians in local stores. The military commissaries also featured a clothing store, barber, tailor, and shoe repair shops for the convenience of dependents. Career NCOs' dependents were entitled to free medical and dental care and the use of the military hospitals if necessary.

Reserve Training

21. Source had no knowledge on reserve matters except as indicated below. He knew nothing as to how often recurring periods of training occurred, whether reserve units existed, etc.
- 50X1 22. [redacted] while serving with the 9th Ind Med Tk Regt at Drawsko (Dramburg) (N 53-32, E 15-48), source observed about 200 army officers undergoing training for about six weeks. From general observations with troops of his unit, source learned that they were reserve officers recalled for refresher training on the employment of tanks and familiarization with equipment being used.
23. During 1953, while serving with the 41st Armd Arty Regt at Czarne (Hammerstein) (N 53-41, E 16-56), he observed about 240 army officers, warrant officers, and NCOs, formed as two separate companies, undergoing various types of training, including the use of tanks, for about three weeks. From conversations with other officers of his unit, source learned that they were reserve officers and NCOs of the armored branch and that they had been recalled for a reserve summer training refresher course for about three weeks. They had been issued summer uniforms at Czarne and returned them upon completion of their training period. Source also learned that they took an oath of service at the start of their reserve training. Although it seemed that many of them were acquainted with each other, source did not know whether they had been called for summer training as a group or individually. He did not know if any of these reservists were retained beyond this normal short period of reserve training.
24. Source did not know if the regular army units remained at cadre strength for the purpose of enabling reservists to be assigned for training. From observations, source stated that reservists were formed into separate companies, had their own specific training plans, and were assigned an appropriate number of regular Polish Army officers and NCOs from the regiment to supervise and conduct training according to the training plan. Source had no knowledge as to which headquarters prepared the training plan for reservists.

Polish Female Officers and Enlisted Women

- 50X1 25. [redacted] source saw a female in Warsaw, who wore a Polish army officer uniform with what he insisted was the insignia of a captain of the infantry branch of service. Source described the color of the uniform as dark green, with skirt, blouse, shirt, tie, and an officer's (Sam Browne) belt. Source had no knowledge as to what military unit or staff headquarters she may have been assigned for duty.

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26. [redacted] several Polish women officers in a park in Lodz. One was a major and several were lieutenant colonels. Source further noted that they wore the insignia of the medical branch of service and construed that they were medical officers assigned to a military hospital in Lodz.

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27. [redacted] about six Polish women wearing dark grey uniforms at a railroad station in Deblin (N 51-34, E 21-50). These women wore skirts, blouses, service caps, shirts, and ties. From the color of their uniforms and rank insignia, source was of 50X1 the opinion that they were Polish Air Force OCS students.

28. As additional information, [redacted] that all women, who had completed a nursing school or an advanced civilian school, were compelled to register with a military regional commission. From conversations, source knew that all females attending a nursing school were also compelled to study certain military subjects in addition to their regular nursing course. He had no information as to the type of military subjects included in the curriculum.

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1. [redacted] Comment: The Polish term for Career NCO has been changed from "Podoficer Zawodowy" to "Podoficer Nadterminowy". (i.e. he became a career NCO after he completed his conscription period of service.) It seems to parallel closely the Soviet term syverkhsrochnik. The active duty NCO (Podoficer Sluzby Czynnej) as referred to in the report was a conscripted EM who had been promoted to an NCO but served in the Polish Army only for the period of service for which conscripted.

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